

increases funding for the Department by 19 percent. The budget matches this aggressive budget authorization and to support large investments into the Community and Regional Development and the Income Security functions in order to account for increases in Affordable Housing programs.

The budget supports the Administration's proposal to fund the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund at \$1 billion and to fully fund the Community Development Block Grant program. It funds HUD's housing programs for the elderly, disabled, and Native Americans, as well as for those programs that prevent homelessness. It increases funding for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, which allows states, localities, and nonprofits to buy up and rehabilitate abandoned and foreclosed properties.

JUSTICE PROGRAMS

The budget accounts for funding efforts to combat and reduce juvenile crime and efforts to rehabilitate ex-offenders. Removing barriers to reentry has proven to reduce recidivism, which in the long run reduces crime. In addition, the budget accounts for much needed increases in youth crime intervention programs. Research has shown that targeting funding towards intervention rather than incarceration is more effective at reducing crime and saving the taxpayer money in the long run.

I have long supported efforts to increase funding for the Justice Assistance Program, the Juvenile Justice Program, Civil Rights Enforcement, the COPS Program, the Byrne Justice Grant Program, and State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance. The budget accounts for sustaining many of the important increases for these programs that was included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

EDUCATION

As the Chairwoman of the Children's Caucus, I support the budget's effort to reform and expand the Pell Grant program. Pell Grants are way to make education affordable to disadvantaged youth. This is very important to me.

The budget has sustained increases in education funding, especially for Title I and IDEA. Even though Congress is to consider the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act this year, the Budget Committee should still account for the need to address the substantial funding shortfalls of this program over the last eight years. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act made substantial increases, the budget accounts for sustaining many of these new investments.

The budget also account for needed increases in funding for Head Start, TRIO (including Upward Bound), GEAR UP, Youth Build, and vocational education programs. The budget accounts for funding for expanded grants to states for workplace and community transition as authorized in the Higher Education Opportunity Act. These grants will better assist and encourage incarcerated individuals who have obtained a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent to acquire educational and job skills.

The budget accounts for funding for the historic increases in funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions authorized in the Higher Education Act reauthorization enacted last year.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The budget supports the President's initiatives to provide increased funding for

infrastructural projects. The President's priorities are reminiscent of the New Deal where this country invested in building up our Nation and the budget reflects this. The President has made a significant effort at achieving this by his signing of HR 1, the Stimulus Act.

In the Stimulus Act, the President authorized money to be spent on infrastructural projects that were shovel ready, i.e., ready to be stated within 120 days. I know that America could use this money.

Indeed, Houston would benefit. Houston's Metro Rail needs to complete its RAIL service in certain quadrants of Houston. The project has been twenty years in the making. I have worked with Leadership and Chairman OBERSTAR to ensure that METRO Rail projects get the funding that they need to be completed.

Completion of this mobility project would decrease congestion and pollution as Houstonians would travel via rail instead of using their cars. This would increase Houston mobility and the health of Houstonians as they would be forced to walk around instead of using their private transport.

VETERANS

The budget provides increased funding for veterans over the next five years.

OTHER PRIORITIES

Fully fund the Community Development Block Grant.

Increased funding for the Public Housing Capital Fund to continue to address eight years of stagnant funding under the Bush Administration.

Fully fund the Child Care and Development Block Grant.

Fully fund the Social Services Block Grant. Increased funding for HOPE VI.

Fully fund the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

Increased funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Support for the creation of a National Infrastructure Bank.

Continued funding for Hurricane Katrina recovery and rebuilding efforts.

Increased funding for the Environmental Justice Small Grants Program.

Increased funding for the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program at the National Park Service. This is important to me. I worked to get funding for urban parks in the Stimulus bill. This increases the health and overall well being of constituents. It is necessary in urban Mecca's like Houston.

HANG UP ON THE TELEPHONE TAX

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to support the Telephone Excise Tax Repeal Act of 2009, which I introduced today along with Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. The telephone tax is deceptive, archaic, unfair and regressive.

This tax was first imposed in 1898 to fund U.S. involvement in the Spanish American War. That conflict is long over, and now elimination of this tax is long overdue. But it is not for want of trying.

Similar pieces of legislation have won bipartisan support in previous sessions of Con-

gress—127 cosponsors in the 110th Congress and 220 in the 109th Congress—but have routinely been stalled. Let's not let that happen again.

I suspect many Americans would be surprised to learn that they are paying a three percent tax on their local telephone, toll, and teletype exchange services. As an excise tax, there is no direct payment made to the government; the tax is collected by the phone companies and remitted to the federal government.

Although the amount is itemized on each phone bill, it is one of many taxes, fees and surcharges listed and can be easily overlooked on the multiple pages of an average telephone bill.

With advances in technology, this tax has become punitive for those without the ability, financial means or desire to upgrade their telecommunications services. Cellular phone and long distance landline telephone services were exempted from the tax in 2006. Bundled services that do not differentiate between local and long distance services, such as Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services, also are exempt. The only service still being subjected to this antiquated tax is local telephone service, which is the predominant means of communication used by the disabled, lower-income families and senior citizens.

Eliminating this regressive tax would be consistent with the actions we already have taken so far in this Congress to provide hundreds of billions of dollars in tax relief to hard working Americans. I ask my colleagues to join us in hanging up on the telephone tax.

HONORING DANIEL C. GILLIAM

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Daniel C. Gilliam upon his retirement from the position of Deputy Senior Acquisition Executive at the National Security Agency (NSA). In this position Mr. Gilliam has been responsible for all of NSA's acquisitions and management of the Acquisition Directorate's senior leadership. Mr. Gilliam oversees all procurements, liaisons with key industry partners, and directs resources to optimize the organization's effectiveness. Working closely with Acquisition's customers, Mr. Gilliam maintains strategic partnerships with NSA's mission elements to ensure their needs and requirements are met.

After earning a Bachelor's degree in Business Management from the University of Maryland, and a Master's degree in Public Administration from the George Washington University in 1979, Mr. Gilliam graduated from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 1993. He also attended the Federal Executive Institutes Leadership for a Democratic Society Program in 1996.

In 1976, Daniel began his career at NSA as a management support intern. Since then, he has worked on a variety of acquisition and contracting positions to include contracting specialist, contracting officer, and cost/price analyst as well as managing those same disciplines. While participating in NSA's executive development program, Mr. Gilliam worked in

the NSA Corporate Policy Office, the NSA Operations Directorate, and served as the Defense Intelligence Agency's Director for Procurement in 1995/1996. From 1997 to 2005, Mr. Gilliam served as the Chief of the Contracting Group, responsible for managing and directing all effort associated with contracting for materials, equipment, and services required to support the missions of the NSA.

Certified level III in contracting in accordance with the Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act. Mr. Gilliam graduated from NSA's Senior Cryptologic Executive Development Program in 1996. He received the Defense Intelligence Director's Award in 1996, and he received the Meritorious Executive Presidential Rank Award in 2002.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Daniel C. Gilliam in his retirement from the position of Deputy Senior Acquisition Executive at the National Security Agency. His legacy as a brilliant and competent specialist will be forever remembered in his service to defending the security of our nation. It is with great pride that I congratulate Dan Gilliam on his exemplary defense career and his outstanding service at the National Security Agency.

RECOGNIZING MATT GIRAUD

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Matt Giraud, a great talent from Kalamazoo, Michigan, for placing in the top five on the eighth season of Fox's American Idol.

Every week, Matt has been a staple in our living rooms, helping us forget about Michigan's challenges for a little while as he sang the hits in his own impressive style.

A life-long Michigan resident, Matt grew up in Ypsilanti, Michigan where he began his musical career by playing drums at his local church. As time passed, Matt became more serious about music. He taught himself how to play the piano and began singing at the age of sixteen. Matt spent his college years in Kalamazoo and attended Western Michigan University, where he studied organizational communication and was a member of the jazz ensemble Gold Company II. After graduating from Western, Matt decided to make Kalamazoo his home and became a regular performer at Monaco Bay and Zazio's lounge, building quite a local following—including me and my staff.

Matt was a performer on American Idol this season, wowing us time and time again with his polished performances. The State of Michigan has been rooting for him from the beginning and we in Kalamazoo are proud to call Matt Giraud our home town idol. Matt, congratulations on your success and we look forward to watching you succeed in the years ahead.

Although Matt's run is over on American Idol, a brilliant career is just beginning.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009:

Requesting Member: Congressman TIM MURPHY

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009

Account: Department of Education, National Projects, Innovation & Improvement

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: National Writing Project

Address of Requesting Entity: University of California, 2105 Bancroft Way #1042, Berkeley, CA 94720-1042

Description of Request: Appropriation in the amount of \$24,291,000 for the National Writing Project for activities authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Requesting Member: Congressman TIM MURPHY

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009

Account: Department of Education, National Projects, Innovation & Improvement

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Reading Is Fundamental

Address of Requesting Entity: 1825 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 400, Washington, DC 20009

Description of Request: Appropriation in the amount of \$24,803,000 for Reading Is Fundamental authorized under the Elementary & Secondary Education Act.

NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, the Centers for Disease Control estimate that autism now affects one in every 150 American children and nearly one in 94 boys. More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than with diabetes, cancer, and AIDS combined. Autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the world, and yet we know little about the root causes of autism.

That's why we must do more to support NIH medical research. Earlier this month I introduced a resolution with Representatives GERLACH and BACHUS to again designate April as "National Autism Awareness Month."

This resolution commends the parents and relatives of children with autism for their dedication in providing for their special needs. It emphasizes the importance of early intervention services. And it supports efforts to devote new resources to medical research on the causes of autism and treatments for it.

With increased support for autism, together we can offer some hope in an area that desperately needs it. I encourage all of my col-

leagues to help bring renewed awareness of children with autism.

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 627) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes:

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Chair, I am proud to be a co-sponsor of H.R. 627, the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act.

In this economic crisis, far too many families have been forced to rely on short-term, high-interest credit card debt to pay for food, housing and other basic necessities.

In Northern Michigan, unemployment is at record highs. This has led many families to fall behind on their payments and fall victim to predatory practices of many credit card companies.

This legislation includes several provisions that would protect consumers from these abusive practices.

The bill would protect cardholders from arbitrary interest rate increases, ban collection of interest on amounts already paid, and would also set specific definitions for "prime rate," "fixed rate" and other terms to prevent deceptive use of these terms.

For too long, the credit card industry has preyed upon consumers through omission of honest billing practices, and through loopholes in credit regulation.

I, alongside my colleagues Mr. PRICE, Mr. MILLER, and Mr. MORAN among others, have offered an amendment that requires credit card companies to honestly report a customer's balance on their monthly credit card statement.

This includes reporting the monthly payment amount and total cost to the consumer for them to eliminate their outstanding balance in 12, 24 and 36 months.

I urge my colleagues to support our amendment and to support the underlying bill.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Budget Resolution Conference Report (S. Con. Res. 13). As a member of the Budget Committee, I would like to thank Chairman SPRATT for his continued leadership, and President Obama for advancing a budget that embodies our national values.

The serious problems caused by eight years of failed policies, including record deficits, doubling of the national debt and the smallest rate